



Hi everyone, this is Michael,¹

I recently came back from the SFCBC Silver Spur Retreat, and I definitely learned a lot over the course of the 3 days. It was primarily about my faith and living in today's world. As most of you know, I've been at Gilead for longer than I haven't. This church has been like a second home to me. I have learned so much Bible History and lessons throughout my 6 or 8 years or so here, and some of the applications I learned at the retreat just opened my eyes and made me really understand some of the lessons I have learned here at Gilead.

For one, being born as a Christian and being raised up as a Christian and believing what you're told doesn't give you an instant ticket to heaven. As in the book of Luke, even demons believe in Christ, and they shudder. Some of the messages and group meetings I heard really emphasized a personal relationship with Christ.

The main theme of the retreat was Take Root and Bear Fruit, and it was the parable of the sower. The 4 types of soil were gone over and explained, and there flaws were made really prevalent.

Now here's where I made a huge discovery. We all know we all sin, we all make mistakes, we all have fallen short of the glory of God. And since this is our nature, I always had this feeling that even though I'm not perfect with God, I'm close, and that's good enough, right? And there was this really good illustration by my small group leader. He talked about two lines in a triangle. They start out in the same place, and they differ no more than just a couple degrees. But all the way down at the end of the lines, they are really apart.

This is like a relationship with God that has one flaw that is ignored, and just grows into more separation with God. Every time you choose to go your own way that deviates from the Bible, it's like your tearing a page out of the Bible.



Overall, I think I learned a ton from this retreat, and I will definitely go next year. I believe that this has opened my eyes to a lot of ideas and I will be learning and taking in more from the sermons and lessons here at Gilead.

Thank you everyone for reading this,
Michael



¹ Testimony given by Michael Lim at Gilead Bible Church on July 11, 2010